

CARTSNEWS

The Official Journal of the Carolina Token Society

ISSUE #5

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Once again, all the news is good! First, new authors - this issue contains articles by two members who have not contributed to *CARTSNEWS* before. And, of the 63 people who received the November issue of *CARTSNEWS*, 30 have become charter members. At the November meeting it was thought that to receive dues from 50% of those on the mailing list would require a miracle; but we did it! (OK we missed by 1½ people.) Now, even more impressive, especially since contributions were not solicited, 4 people made contributions along with their dues. The average contribution was \$21.25.

As promised, a drawing on January 25 determines the charter membership number of each of those who paid dues. In the next (May) issue there will be a list of members giving their membership number along with city and state of residence. No more specific address - or other information - will be given. If however you wish to have your name, and this information, **not** listed please let the editor know before the end of April. (Sooner is always better.)

Also as promised in the November issue, we now solicit paid advertising. The rate per issue for ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. You should send any advertising, along with payment, to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for the next issue, advertising copy should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose the ad from your rough copy if you desire.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Greetings to all members of CARTS!! I hope everyone had a nice Holiday Season. And perhaps Santa put that special token or medal in your stocking this year. I sure hope so. At any rate, the New Year is upon us and let's strive to make it a successful one for CARTS. We will need everyone's help to put our fledgling society on strong footing and I exhort all of you to do something - even if it is only to write a short article or send in a free classified ad. Also, I would like to hear from the membership in what they would like to see us do as an organization. Your officers are here to serve the membership, but we cannot do it all ourselves. Let us hear from you!

Regards,
Tony Chibbaro
President, CARTS

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Comments, suggestions, reactions, (maybe even) criticism, will be gratefully accepted. Let us know! **Articles, New Finds, Announcements, and Classifieds to Don Bailey only! Dues to Bob King only!**

L. GREER ZIONVILLE, N. C.

Joe Elrod

Elijah "Lige" Greer moved from Brownwood, North Carolina to Zionville in 1903 at the age of 35. Lige, his brother Tom Greer and J. Quince McGuire each put up \$500 to open a general store at Zionville. (Zionville is in Watauga County in northwestern North Carolina and the store was about 1 mile from the Tennessee-North Carolina state line.)

In the second year of operation, Lige bought out Mr. McGuire and in the third year, he bought out his brother Tom. As the business prospered, Lige built a new herb warehouse and a new store with two floors of merchandise.



L. Greer / Zionville, / N. C. // Good For / 25¢ / In Merchandise – R, Br, 24mm

The L. Greer store had a thriving business buying roots and herbs which were baled and hauled to the railroad at Shouns, Tennessee. In the early years the price of a wagon and team to haul a load of herbs to Shouns was \$4 which included bringing back a load of merchandise for the store. In addition to roots and herbs, Mr. Greer also bought chickens, turkeys, rabbits, dried apples, eggs, butter, salt-cured hams, homemade cheese, maple sugar, chestnuts, and animal skins. Chestnuts were worth 2 cents per pound; opossum furs, 5 to 10 cents each; muskrat furs, 5 to 15 cents each; grey fox furs 15 to 20 cents; and red fox furs, 75 cents each.

Commodities brought to the store were exchanged for merchandise or for tokens; no money changed hands. Token denominations were 5¢, 10¢, 25¢, and 50¢ in both brass and aluminum.

Mr. Greer's sons Raymond and Howard helped with work in the store and warehouse. During busy summers there were other extra clerks and always two men in the warehouse. Elijah Greer died February 23, 1947. His family continued to operate the store for several years after his death.

Sources:

- A.C. Mast, "Watauga County History", *Watauga Democrat*, September 11, 1975
- Visit with family members, December 1982

Two Lingering Questions About The South Carolina Tricentennial Medal Program

Tony Chibbaro



I was 13 years old in 1970 when the state of South Carolina celebrated its tricentennial. Budding numismatist that I was, I spent much of my leisure time filling holes in my Lincoln Penny, Buffalo Nickel, and Mercury Dime albums. Too bad that I had not been properly introduced to the realm of tokens and medals because I am sure that there were many bargains to be had back then. Also, I would most likely have been able to find the answers to two questions that I now have concerning South Carolina's Tricentennial Medal program. (1) Why did the Tricentennial Commission contract two different entities to strike its medals? (2) Were there any specimens struck in gold?

As an 8th grader, I was certainly aware of the state's Tricentennial celebration. One could hardly fail to notice all the news releases, media promotions, and various festivities that were an almost daily occurrence. I remember that my mother even purchased a few of the campy souvenirs which were advertised for sale in some magazine or newspaper. I still have a couple of them – a funky tie clasp and a brass pencil holder which both carry the official Tricentennial Seal.

However, I was not aware of the Tricentennial Commemorative Medallion program. If I had been, perhaps I would have purchased one or two of the less expensive options. But only as an adult did I learn of such a program. I now own specimens of all seven of the known types - four different types struck by the U.S. Mint and three additional strikes made by the Medallion

Art Company. Exactly why there were two entities striking a total of seven different medals is one of the questions for which I have not been able to find an answer.

I recently found a hint at an answer in a copy of the final report of the Tricentennial Commission to the State Legislature. Inside that report appears a detailed synopsis of the Commemorative Medallion Program which mentions a desire to create several different varieties for collectors. Also, the same synopsis draws attention to the difference in the U.S. Mint's "coin-press" strikes and the "very handsomely struck medallions in deep relief" struck by the Medallic Art Company. Reading between the lines, I cannot help but suppose that perhaps the artist or the Commission was not impressed with the quality of the U.S. Mint strikes and a decision was made to go outside the Mint for a more artistic high-relief rendition of the design.

The same report to the legislature also addresses my second unanswered question. There is a statement in the front of the book which says "the U.S. Mint and Treasury approved and produced medallions in gold, silver, and bronze." This statement is not part of the more detailed synopsis mentioned above, but appears in a general introduction to the Tricentennial Commission's activities. There is no mention of any strikes in gold in the more informative synopsis, but the statement in the introduction raises the possibility that pattern strikes or special presentation pieces were made in gold. Another possible scenario is that an early proposed version of the program included an option for gold strikes, which was later deleted from the final version of the program. Or perhaps the statement about gold medallions was simply made in error. At any rate, I have been unable to find any mention of gold specimens elsewhere in the report, but I would still think that it would be imprudent to completely rule out the possibility of a pattern or presentation strike in gold.

A more detailed summary of the medallic program is now in order. The designs were prepared by noted sculptor Enrique Monjo, a native of Catalonia, Spain. The obverse depicts an adaptation of the official Tricentennial seal. The female figure is a personification of Hope, holding a laurel branch and standing in front of a palmetto tree. The reverse pictures a representation of the English ship "Carolina" in the Ashley River as it makes its first approach to land in 1670. The U.S. Mint struck medals in two different sizes and two different compositions. Three thousand silver medals and an unlimited number of bronze specimens were struck in 40 mm diameter. Three hundred silver and 3000 bronze medallions were struck in 3 inch diameter. The Medallic Art Company produced specimens in both silver and bronze also, but no mintage figures are cited. Bronze pieces were struck

in 3 inch and 40 mm diameters, but silver pieces were struck only in 40 mm size. All seven medals from both entities were struck with the same design, the only difference being the depth of the relief. In my opinion, the Medallic Art Company strikes are much more beautiful due to the higher relief design. Pictured above is one of Medallic Art's 40 mm silver strikes.

South Carolina Rarities Abound in Ford Sale Part VII

Tony Chibbaro

As if two examples of the 1837 R.L. Baker soda water token and two examples of the First Scots Presbyterian Church communion token in a previous installment of the sale of the John J. Ford collection were not enough, numerous other numismatic rarities from the state of South Carolina will cross the auction block on January 18, 2005 in New York City. (By the time this article is published the sale will be history and no doubt auction records will have been set.) The aforementioned tokens appeared in Part IV of the Ford sale and all brought very high prices when the gavel came down in June of last year. The newest installment of the sale of one of the most valuable numismatic collections ever formed (which by the way does not include a single U.S. regular issue coin) contains several items of note from the Palmetto State. There are no less than eight Palmetto Regiment Mexican War medals – two gold (awarded only to officers), four silver, and two bronze. There are also two specimens of the rare silver Charleston Company of Volunteers medals. That makes a total of ten Mexican War medals from South Carolina and is by far the largest grouping of such ever to be sold at one time.

Also in the sale are two 1860 Washington Light Infantry medals. These super rare items were given by Captain Simonton to each of the 144 soldiers that marched in the special Fourth of July parade in Charleston that year. And, as if that is not enough, there are three different seldom-seen medals struck by Northerners in tribute to the Union soldiers which defended Fort Sumter against the Confederate bombardment at the beginning of the Civil War.

All in all it should be some auction and there will be another report in the next newsletter with a synopsis of the sale and the prices realized.

THE TRIANGLE SPORTSPLEX TOKEN

Lamar Bland



Game Token Game Token / (Shark inside triangle) /
Triangle / Sportsplex // Non / Negotiable / Game / Token /
Non / Redeemable – R, Wm, 23mm

Unlike many game tokens issued by companies with branch facilities in numerous locations, the Triangle Sportsplex token was issued by a corporation with a single facility in Hillsboro, North Carolina. It is a private facility with an ice rink, indoor swimming pool and fitness center. As the token suggests, it provides venues for the young, video games notably. It also hosts parties, such as the one indicated on the invitation my daughter recently received. The 10 year old facility has been owned by Eaton Vance, a Boston based investment firm, since 1999. But the *Raleigh News and*

Observer reported in its December 15, 2004, edition that Orange County commissioners are currently considering whether to purchase the facility and develop it into a center for senior citizens. If that happens, these game tokens will probably become obsolete.



Post Card Front



Directions: From I-85 take exit 165 North on NC 86, to Business 70. Turn right. The Triangle SportsPlex is approximately one half mile on the right. From I-40 take exit 266, North on NC 86 to Business 70.

**One Dan Kidd Drive
Hillsborough, NC 27278
919-644-0339
www.trianglesportsplex.com**

Post Card Back (Partial)

CLASSIFIED ADS

WANTED

BUYING SOUTH DAKOTA TOKENS. Send description and price. Joe Elrod, 5433 US HWY 221, Sparta, NC 28675

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL CARTS MEMBERS! I am interested in Post Trader Tokens and Historical Information on Post Traders. - J. Adams - Email:
GADAMS@VLKARCHITECTS.COM

NORTH AND SOUTH CAROLINA EXONUMIA AVAILABLE FOR TRADE for needed Georgia exonumia - including tokens, Masonic pennies, encased coins, etc. Randy Partin, 1314 Keystone Pointe, Auburndale, FL 33823 email: RPAR10@GATE.NET

WILL PAY \$150 each for maverick trade tokens in nice shape from Clifton Mfg. Co. or Pacolet Mfg. Co. Tony Chibbaro, PO Box 420, Prosperity, SC 29127 (803-252-1881)
chibbaro@mindspring.com

IF YOU HAVE PEANUT TOKENS, OR DR PEPPER TOKENS for sale or trade please let me know. Don Bailey, PO Box 1272, Etowah, NC 28729 or ELADON@BRINET.COM

MISCELLEANOUS

HAVE 15 NORTH CAROLINA DUN DIRECTORIES in computer; will check mavericks you believe to be from NC. Need more listings for NC Token Catalog; must end entries soon. Bob King, 33 Cardinal Dr., Brevard, NC 28712-4227, 828-883-8028, tokenaddict@citcom.net

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE – send in your ad today for the May issue. Also send in those articles, new finds, etc. CARTS can succeed only with your input.

SETS Membership and Dues: Membership in SETS is open to anyone interested in the exonomia of the two Carolinas. Annual dues are \$10.00 and should be mailed to the treasurer Bob King. Checks should be made payable to SETS.

Advertising: Each member is encouraged to submit one classified ad per issue. These ads are free to members. Free ads should be no more than 50 words in length. No ads will be run continuously; a new ad must be submitted for each issue. The editor reserves the right to edit ads for length and any ad thought not to be in the best interest of the hobby will be rejected.

Paid advertising is also solicited. The rate per issue for paid ads is as follows. One quarter page \$3.00, one half page \$6.00, and full page \$11.00. Any paid advertising, along with payment, should be sent to the editor by the fifteenth of that month before the month of issue. So, for example, advertising copy for the May issue should be received by the editor by April 15. Camera ready copy will be accepted, but the editor will also compose the ad from your rough copy if you desire.